

Message Text

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53

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TAGS: EAID, ZA

SUBJ: AASC RESEARCH GRANT

REF: STATE 51105

1. DR. BOND'S PROPOSAL TO STUDY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF TANZAM RAILROAD SEEMS QUITE WORTHWHILE AND SOMETHING IN WHICH ZAMBIAWS THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE BOTH POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL OBSTACLES TO CARRYING OUT SUCH RESEARCH IN PERIOD INDICATED -- JUNE- SEPT 1973.

2. RAILROAD ITSELF IS, OF COURSE, NOT YET A GOING CONCERN. THE COMPLETED PORTION IN TANZANIA IS BEING USED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOR TRANSPORT OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT FOR RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION. RAIL HEAD STILL OVER ONE HUNDRED MILES FROM ZAMBIAW BORDER AND, WHILE SOME GRADING AND CAUSEWAY CONSTRUCTION NOW GOING ON IN ZAMBIA, NO TRACK HAS BEEN LAID IN THIS COUNTRY AS YET AND COMPLETION OF LINE NOT EXPECTED BEFORE LATE 1974.

3. RECOGNIZE THAT FOREGOING IS NOT NECESSARILY IMPEDIMENT TO FRUITFUL RESEARCH OF SUBJECT MATTER, BUT, GIVEN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL SENSITIVITY HERE AT PRESENT TIME, THERE DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT DR. BOND WOULD AROUSE SUSPICION, AT LEAST WHILE RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDING. ZAMBIAWS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN US REFUSED PARTICIPATE IN TANZAM RAILROAD CONSTRUC-

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TION AND SEE AMERICANS AS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT CHINESE PENETRATION HERE. THIS BARRIER MIGHT BE OVERCOME IF WELL PLACED ZAMBIANS COULD BE INTERESTED IN HIS PROJECT, BUT THAT WOULD NATURALLY TAKE SOME TIME. WE WOULD BE PREPARED OF COURSE TO ATTEMPT PUT DR. BOND IN CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS IN ACADEMIC WORLD AND ELSEWHERE WHO MIGHT BE HELPFUL WITH THIS.

4. A MAJOR PRACTICAL PROBLEM IS TIME CONSUMING AND INVOLVED PROCESS OF SECURING REQUIRED GRZ APPROVAL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS. AS EXPLAINED IN LUSAKA A-25, IMARCH 20, 1973, AVERAGE PERIOD REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL IS SIX MONTHS AND IN MANY CASES IT IS MUCH LONGER.

5. DESPITE THE OBVIOUS VALUE OF DR. BOND'S PROJECT, WE REGRET-FULLY CONCLUDE THAT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THE WAY COULD BE CLEARED FOR HIM TO PROCEED THIS YEAR AS PROPOSED.

NELSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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